

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 SCI-06 ACDA-19 EB-11 PCH-14

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090577

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: GW UR TECH ENRG

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR FRG/ USSR COOPERATION IN INSTALLING  
NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN USSR

REF: BONN 2866

1. 1. REFTEL REPORTS THAT SOVIETS APPEAR INTERESTED IN FRG NUCLEAR PLANTS OF 1,000 TO 1,200 MWE, AS WELL AS NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THEM, WHICH FRG TECHMIN REPS ATTRIBUTE TO USSR NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY BEING " STUCK" AT 500 MWE LEVEL.

2. IT NOT CLEAR TO US ON WHAT BASIS FRG REPS HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION RE STATUS USSR NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY, AND WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFORMATION UNDERLYING THEIR VIEWS. INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE INDICATES USSR CAPABLE OF CONSTRUCTING NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN 1,000-1,200 MWE RANGE. TWO 1,000 MWE BWR ( GRAPHITE MODERATED, PRESSURE TUBE TYPE) PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON GLUF OF FINLAND NEAR LENINGRAD ARE EXPECTED GO INTO OPERATION 1973, WITH 3-4 OTHERS THIS TYPE SCHEDULED FOR OPERATION BY 1980. IN ADDITION, 1,000 MWE PWR UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT NOVOVORONEZH EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL 1975-76. U. S. NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR TEAM WHICH VISITED USSR JUNE 1970 CONCLUDED AT THAT TIME THAT " THE WATER- REACTOR TECHNOLOGY ON PWRS AND BWRS APPEARS TO BE WELL WITHIN THE PERFORMANCE RANGE OF SIMILAR REACTORS IN THE WEST" ( LARGEST USSR PLANT OPERATIVE THEN WAS REPORTED TO BE 365 MWE PWR, WITH 440 MWE PWR UNDER CONSTRUCTION, THE LATTER COMPLETED IN 1972).

3. ALTHOUGH, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET HAD OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH REACTORS IN 1,000 MWE SIZE RANGE, IT ASSUMED THAT, GIVEN LENGTH AND BREADTH OF USSR EXPERIENCE IN NUCLEAR FIELD, THEIR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION CAPABILITIES ARE QUITE HIGH FOR LARGE REACTORS. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT FRG FIRMS MAY NOT BE QUITE CAPABLE OF CONSTRUCTING LARGE ENRICHED PLANTS IN SIZE- RANGE INDICATED, IN VIEW NUMBER SUCH PLANTS WE UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE UNDER CONTRACT OR CONSTRUCTION. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THERE IS RELATIVELY LITTLE OPERATIONAL

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EXPERIENCE WITH LARGE FRG- BUILT PLANTS, THE LARGEST BEING THE 630 MWE STADE PLANT, WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION ABOUT ONE YEAR. ALSO ( ASSUMING FRG MIGHT HAVE IN MIND POSSIBILITY USING US- LICENSED TECHNOLOGY) LARGE US REACTOR TECHNOLOGY MAY BE SUPERIOR IN SOME RESPECTS TO SOVIET TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE NOW HAVE THREE YEARS OPERATING EXPERIENCE WITH PLANTS OF 800 MWE, WHICH EXPECTED BE AUGMENTED BY ADDITIONAL OPERATING PLANTS THIS SIZE IN NEAR FUTURE. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL PLANTS IN 1,000-1,300 MWE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN U. S.

4. ALTHOUGH IT POSSIBLE SOVIET INTEREST IN FRG PLANT MAY STEM, IN PART, FROM DESIRE FOR TECHNOLOGY SOVIETS DO

NOT POSSES, THERE MAY BE OTHER REASONS FOR A POLITICAL NATURE, PRIMARILY ASSOCIATED WITH POTENTIALLY DEEP FRG INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECT, INCLUDING FINANCIAL COMMITMENT, AND A DEPENDENCE TO SOME DEGREE ON ELECTRICAL OUTPUT OF PLANT. DIFFICULT TO ASSESS IMPLICATIONS THIS POSSIBILITY, BUT BELIEVE FRG SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THESE FACTORS. WE ALSO WONDER WHETHER USSR INTEREST IN OBTAINING FRG PLANT RELATED TO THEIR OFFER PROVIDE URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES TO FRG, AND ANY INFO EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP ON THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD BE OF INTEREST.

5. REGARDING APPLICABILITY OF COCOM TO SUCH TRANSACTION, NUCLEAR REACTORS, FUEL FOR NUCLEAR RACTORS ( I. E., SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND SOURCE MATERIAL) AND MODERATING MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS ( I. E., GRAPHITE AND HEAVY WATER) ARE UNDER COCOM EMBARGO CONTROLS. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS FACT, COCOM EMBARGO CONTROLS PERMIT EXPORT THESE ITEMS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. NOTE 2 OF AE-36 OF COCOM EMBARGO DEFINITION FOR REACTORS INDICATES THAT COORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY, ON BASIS OF INDIVIDUAL JUSTIFICATION, REQUESTS FOR EXPORT OF CIVILIAN RESEARCH AND POWER REACTORS, INCLUDING MAJOR COMPONENTS THEREOF AND INITIAL SHIPMENTS OF FUEL AND MODERATORS THEREFOR IN CONNECTION WITH WHICH RECIPIENT COUNTRY HAS AGREED TO ALLOW SAFEGUARDS OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY ( IAEA) BE APPLIED ( SEE PARA 8 BELOW). THE NOTE ALSO STATES THAT A DECISION IN EACH CASE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT NOTE IS NOT TO BE INTERPRETED AS A COMMITMENT BY ANY MEMBER TO APPROVE ANY INDIVIDUAL CASE. LAST POINTS IN-  
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CLUDED IN NOTE, DURING ITS NEGOTIATIONS IN COCOM, AT INSISTENCE OF U. S. AS WE WANTED TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO BE ABLE OBJECT TO ANY CASE NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY AGREED TO APPLY IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

6. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE NOTES APPENDED TO COCOM EMBARGO DEFINITIONS FOR SOURCE AND SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL, HEAVY WATER, AND GRAPHITE WHICH PROVIDE FOR SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENTS OF THESE MATERIALS FOR USE IN REACTORS EXPORTED UNDER NOTE 2 OF AE-36 IF ALL OF THE SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT REMAIN UNCHANGED. THIS LATTER POINT WAS ALSO INSERTED INTO THESE NOTES AT U. S. INSISTENCE DURING COCOM NEGOTIATIONS TO PREVENT SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENTS OF THESE MATERIALS IF REACTOR PROJECT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN ITS TECHNICAL ASPECTS FROM THAT INITIALLY REPRESENTED AT TIME REACTOR APPROVED FOR EXPORT.

7. FROM COCOM STANDPOINT, THEREFORE, EXPORTS OF GERMAN REACTORS AND RELATED NUCLEAR MATERIALS COULD BE MADE TO USSR FOR CIVILIAN POWER PROJECTS CONSISTENT WITH COCOM EMBARGO CONTROLS IF IAEA SAFEGUARDS ARE APPLIED, AND PROVIDED ALL COCOM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U. S., GIVE THEIR APPROVAL

TO TRANSACTION.

8. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH USSR IS PARTY TO NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, SOVIETS NOT REQUIRED BY NPT TO ACCEPT IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON ITS CIVILIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM SINCE IT IS NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE. NEVERTHELESS, US POSITION EXPECTED BE IN COCOM THAT IAEA SAFEGUARDS SHOULD APPLY TO ANY SOURCE OR SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL USED, PROCESSED OR PRODUCED IN CONNECTION WITH PLANT BUILT IN USSR WITH WESTERN ASSISTANCE. PRINCIPAL BASIS FOR THIS POSITION IS US POLICY THAT WESTERN TECHNOLOGY SHOULD IN NO WAY BE EMPLOYED TO ENABLE USSR PRODUCE SPEICAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL, I. E., PLUTONIUM ( LARGE QUANTITIES IN CASE OF POWER REACTOR) WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR SOVIET MILITARY PROGRAMS. A SECONDARY EFFECT OF ACCEPTANCE OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS BY USSR MIGHT BE TO STRENGTHEN OR PROMOTE GENERAL ACCEPTABILITY IAEA SAFEGUARDS IN SOME NON- NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. AS EMBASSY AWARE, US AND UK HAVE OFFERED HAVE IAEA SAFEGUARDS APPLIED TO THEIR CIVIL PROGRAMS AS STEP TO ENCOURAGE COUNTRIES, SUCH AS FRG AND JAPAN,

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TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE NPT.

9. BEFORE ANY US FIRMS ( INCLUDING ANY US TECHNOLOGY LICENSED TO FRG FIRMS) COULD PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED PROJECT, SPECIFIC AEC AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE REQUIRED PURSUANT TITLE 10 CFR, PART 110 OF AEC REGULATIONS. COPY OF REGULATIONS POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR BACKGROUND.

10. INFO ON US/ USSR TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION PROVIDED EMBASSY SEPARATELY. ROGERS

NOTE BY OC/ T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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